

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 remain in this application. Claims 18-24 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. By these amendments, no new matter has been added.

The Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 2-10, 14 and 16.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 11 and 18-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Erwin, and Claims 12-13, 15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Erwin. The present amendments to the claims have mooted these rejections. Claims 18-24 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 2, and should therefore also be allowable. The remaining rejected claims should also be allowable, at least as depending from allowable base Claim 1. These rejections should therefore be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowability is solicited. If it would be helpful to placing this application in condition for allowance, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel and conduct a telephonic interview.

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To the extent necessary, Applicants petition the Commissioner for a one-month extension of time, extending to April 4, 2005, the period for response to the Office Action dated December 2, 2004. A check in the amount of \$120.00 is enclosed for the one-month extension of time pursuant to 37 CFR §1.17(a)(1). The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0639.

Respectfully submitted,



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